

**MINUTES**  
**STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Wallace State Office Building**  
**April 6, 2007**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Scott Moats  
Carl Kurtz  
Laura Jackson, Chair  
Cindy Peterson  
Liz Christiansen  
Armando Rosales  
Deb Lewis

**STAFF PRESENT**

Richard Leopold  
John Pearson  
Daryl Howell

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Laura Jackson called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM on April 6, 2007 at the Fort Atkinson Public Library.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Add: Presentation by Alan Becker  
Crossman Prairie – proposed hog confinement  
Bill Johnson – seed harvest request  
Rock Island Preserve & HWY 100  
Introduction of Director Leopold

***Motion was made by Liz Christiansen to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Scott Moats. Motion carried.***

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Motion was made by Armando Rosales to approve the minutes from the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting. Seconded by Liz Christiansen. Motion carried.***

## **PRESENTATION BY ALAN BECKER**

Alan Becker gave the overall history of Fort Atkinson and the background of the Sioux and Sauk tribes.

In broader context, the story of the military post of Fort Atkinson is a story of the US government policy in removing the native Americans from the east side off the Mississippi River over the west side. In a narrower context, the story is about the life of the inhabitants of the 'neutral ground' of the northeast Iowa Territory.

Throughout the 1830's, the Winnebago resisted leaving their homelands in Wisconsin. The region contained their tribal burial grounds and the Winnebago also had concern for moving into the region near their old enemies, the Sioux. General Atkinson then suggested the idea of establishing a temporary fort along the Turkey River within the 'neutral ground'. Atkinson supposedly promised that the U.S. military would provide protection the Winnebago tribe from the Sioux tribe located to the north. While the Fort was not really constructed for this purpose, the soldiers did monitor the location of the Sioux, and also kept settlers out of the "neutral ground" since they were prohibited from entering this territory reserved for the Winnebago.

Construction of the fort began in 1840 and by the fall of 1842 most of the construction was completed. There were about 24 buildings erected. Ten of which were located within the stockade walls.

By the mid-1840s the southeast Iowa Territory had been invaded by settlers and Shortly these pioneer farmers were located at the southern edge of the 'neutral ground'. The government made the decision to move the Winnebago Indians out of the region and into Minnesota.

In 1855, the Fort was sold to private owners by public auction and the outside buildings were torn down. It wasn't until the 1920s that the resident of the town of Fort Atkinson began to realize the role that the military form in the community had played not only as a part of our country's history, but more specifically in the importance to local history. Through efforts of local citizens, the Iowa Board of Conservation acquired the fort site in the 1920s.

In 1940, workers remarked the foundations of the original buildings within the stockade. In 1957, funds were appropriated which were used from 1958-1962 to reconstruct the north barracks into a visitor center, and the log stockade wall was partially reconstructed. Due to rotting of the stockade wall poles, the stockade wall was replaced in the fall of 2006.

In 1968, the Fort was dedicated as a State Preserve. In 1976, the Iowa Conservation Commission, along with the Travel Development Division of the Iowa Development Commission, decided to develop a new program of promotion

of interest areas on state-owned land in Iowa with Fort Atkinson being the starting point.

Two previous archeological investigations have been conducted at the Ft. Atkinson post site. The purpose of the investigation was to determine the exact locations of the building foundations located inside the stockade wall, and to collect artifacts for display at the State Museum within the fort.

The second archaeological investigation was conducted by McKusick, the State Archaeologist of Iowa in 1966. McKusick dug outside the stockade wall and located the foundation of the bakehouse. A sketch was made. Artifacts associated with the latter part of the fort's occupation were discovered.

Archeological investigations related to Fort Atkinson between 1988-2006 have included excavations of some fort foundations, latrines, a bakehouse, church and outbuildings.

In 1977, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Fort Atkinson community organize a frontier rendezvous to re-enact life as it was in the 1840s. The annual Fort Atkinson rendezvous occurs during the last full weekend in the month of September.

Cindy Peterson presented "Friends of the Preserve award plaques" to Alan Becker and Miles for their dedication, enthusiasm and promotion of Fort Atkinson State Preserve.

### **PRESERVE LAND MANAGERS CONFERENCE**

The Conference is set for July 12-13 in Sioux City at the Dorothy Pecaut Center.

Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> (10:00 AM) – Preserves board meeting

Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> (4:00 – 9:00PM) - Conference with the land managers

Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> (9:00-3:00 PM) – Tour of surrounding preserves (Mount Talbot, Broken Kettle and Five Ridge Prairie State Preserve)

Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> (PM) through Saturday – Annual Iowa Prairie Network Conference begins

### **REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH**

Midwest Experimental Ethnobotany is requesting permission to measure soil erosion as it relates to preservation of surface features of archaeological sites. The work will include foliage measurements, installation of erosion pins and collection of a few soil samples at Wittrock State Preserve and Woodland Mounds State Preserve. Their goal of the survey is to determine how much erosion is taking place on archaeological sites and how management of the site can help reduce erosion and loss of surface feature definition.

John Pearson said that Midwest Experimental Ethnobotany stated that as soon as the pins are installed they will send an updated map with the exact location of the pins. If any being to be covered with soil, they will pull them above surface level and adjust their recordings.

The location of all the pins will be recorded when they are installed and will be removed and recorded at the end of the study.

They are independent, self-employed, professional archeologists. The study would be about three years.

Scott Moats asked about a timeframe for the research.

John Pearson said that we could ask for a yearly report.

***Motion was made by Cindy Peterson to allow permission for the Scullin's to conduct research with submittal of an annual report to the Preserves Board. Seconded by Deb Lewis. Motion carried.***

### **BIXBY STATE PRESERVE**

Larry Stone presented the results of his study on the history of Bixby State Preserve.

His study is on file with the Department of Natural Resources.

### **SEED HARVEST PROGRAM**

Bill Johnson with the Department of Natural Resources presented the results of his seed harvest from in 2006. The preserves that were harvested included Doolittle, Kalsow, Sheeder and Hayden.

Bill presented his seed harvest proposals for Cayler and Anderson Prairie. Both sites would be harvested with the combine. The species harvested would include all grasses and forbs occurring on the site. The seed collected will be planted during the same field season as harvest – time and weather permitting. The seed harvested from Cayler will be utilized on the new acquisition adjacent to Cayler. The seed harvested from Anderson Prairie will be utilized on the Crim tract adjacent to Anderson.

Another proposal was presented for other state preserve land, all of which will be hand harvested. All seed will initially go to production plots. Production fields are being established and the remaining seed will be incorporated with ecotype grasses into these production fields.

Scott Moats asked if seed could be used on the Anderson tile line area.

***Motion was made by Scott Moats to approve the seed harvest proposals as presented. Seconded by Carl Kurtz. Motion carried.***

Bill Johnson invited the board up to the new facility near Brushy Creek Recreational Area.

### **CROSSMAN PRAIRIE UPDATE**

John Pearson said that Crossman Prairie is a 10 acre native prairie that is owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy in Howard County.

There is a proposed 5,000 head hog finisher operation to be built directly across the road that could potentially effect the preserve. Crossman Prairie is the head of a watershed area. Depending on the location of the site and where the manure is spread, this could be a problem for the prairie. We have very limited information at this time on the construction permits, exact location of the buildings and manure application.

Scott Moats said that setback distances do not apply in this case because the Nature Conservancy is not public and would not have the special protection. I believe this is an issue that needs to be addressed since a preserve is the highest level of protection.

Mr. Hudson said that Crossman Prairie is used as an outdoor classroom by some schools.

Laura Jackson said that if the preserve can not be protected then we should gather data from the preserve now and see what effects the hog operation has on the preserve over the years. That data could prove to be very valuable when protecting other preserves.

***Motion was made by Armando Rosales to approve the drafting of a letter expressing the Preserves Board's position on the proposed location of the hog confinement. Seconded by Deb Lewis.***

Scott Moats abstained from the motion.

### **ROCK ISLAND PRESERVES**

John Pearson said that the Department of Transportation is proposing an extension of HWY 100. The route goes past the North side of the preserve. The

D.O.T. has a list of alternatives that they are currently looking at. The D.O.T. did have to do a study to evaluate the impacts of each route on the county lands. The D.O.T. did look at the County Conservation Board's recommendation as directed by the Federal Highway Commission. The proposed route would go far to the North and West of the preserve. The D.O.T. has again said that the route was out of the way and would not be considered as an alternative.

Ten alternative routes went out for review on January 5th with a 45 day comment period. The DNR submitted comments on two alternative routes that provided the least encroachment to Rock Island Preserve and native species. After the D.O.T. selects its alternative route, it will go out for public comment again.

### **DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION**

DNR Director Rich Leopold gave an overview of his experience. Prior to the DNR, I was the Executive Director of the Iowa Environmental Council since September of 2003. I have held a variety of biologist, naturalist, and administrative positions within the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Minnesota and Iowa Department of Natural Resources. From 1999-2002, I served as the coordinator for IOWATER, Iowa's statewide volunteer water-quality monitoring program. I have an M.S. in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University, a B.S. in biology from Minnesota State University and an Associates degree in natural resources technology from Central Lakes College in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Director Leopold went over a variety of topics and concerns that he has been or will be involved with:

- ❖ Farm Bill
- ❖ Working with Legislative leadership and stakeholders
- ❖ Energy – Power Fund
- ❖ Global warming issues
- ❖ Working with the new Governor and budget for the department
- ❖ Water Quality and Water quantity (State Water Plan)
- ❖ Transportation fuels
- ❖ Livestock and local control
- ❖ Sustainable funding for Natural Resources – This would provide \$150 million for the next ten years using six different funding mechanisms.

Liz Christiansen presented an appreciation plaque to Laura Jackson for her years of service on the Preserves Board.

### **PROPOSAL SELECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008**

Currently, we anticipate having a total of about \$40,000 to fund several projects that will be selected by the board.

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Laura</b>	<b>Scott</b>	<b>Liz</b>	<b>Cindy</b>	<b>Deb</b>	<b>Carl</b>	<b>Armando</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>Healy - Inventory of Macrofungi for Several Preserves</b>	1	1	1	1		1	1	1.0	960	960.00
<b>Selby - Poweshiek Skipperling Status Assessment</b>	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1.4	5,850.00	6,810.00
<b>Watson - Habitat Management for Federal Plant Species in Preserves</b>	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1.4	7,669.00	14,479.00
<b>Davis - Insect Survey of Iowa State Preserves</b>	2	3	1	1		2	1	1.7	2,150.00	16,629.00
<b>Bonestroo - Botanical Survey of Little Maquoketa River Mounds</b>	1	1	1	3	2	1	3	1.7	3,210.00	19,839.00
<b>Bonestroo - Botanical Survey of Sliding Mounds</b>	1	2	1	3	2	1	2	1.7	4,825.00	24,664.00
<b>Roosa - Botanical survey of Casey's Paha</b>	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1.9	3,995.00	28,659.00
<b>Zuercher - Southern Flying Squirrel Status Survey at Catfish Creek</b>	1	2	3	2	3	1	1	1.9	2,075.00	30,734.00
<b>Roosa - Botanical Survey of Woodland Mounds</b>	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	1.9	4,247.00	34,981.00
<b>Stephen - Freshwater Snails of Gitche Manitou</b>	2	2	1	1	3	3	1	1.9	1,028.00	36,009.00
<b>Olsen - Butterfly Survey of Manikowski Prairie</b>	2	3	2	3	1	2	1	2.0	1,974.40	37,983.40
<b>Parmelee and Rehmeier - Amphibians, Reptiles and Mammals of Woodland Mounds</b>	2	3	2	3	1	1	2	2.0	5,615.10	43,598.50
Cady - Floristic Inventory of Cameron Woods	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	2.1	2,080.80	45,679.30
Fogell - Herpetofauna and Small Mammal Surveys of Vincent Bluff Prairie	1	3	3	2	1	3	3	2.3	2,920.00	48,599.30
Schmitt - Garlic Mustard Study	3	3	3	3		1	1	2.3	5,085.00	53,684.30
Scullin and Munson Scullin - Botanical Survey of Woodland Mounds	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2.6	2,088.00	55,772.30

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Priority Ranking is High (1), Medium (2), or Low (3).

Deb Lewis abstained from voting on three different proposals that involved Iowa State University.

The highlighted proposals have been chosen for funding.

The Board agreed that they will only fund \$2,150 of the Davis - Insect Survey of Iowa State Preserves.

John Pearson said that we could contribute about \$3,600 of federal money for endangered species. Jerry Selby's study and Watson's proposal would be eligible. A funding match is required.

The Board agreed to use the \$40,000 from the state and \$3,600 of federal monies, bringing the total of funded projects to \$43,600.

***Motion was made by Liz Christiansen to approve the proposal selections as presented for FY 2008. Seconded by Scott Moats. Motion carried.***

### **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

***Motion was made by Scott Moats to nominate Cindy Peterson as chair. Seconded by Deb Lewis. Cindy Peterson accepted the nomination. Motion carried.***

### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Pellet Woods is celebrating 100 years of preservation on April 28<sup>th</sup>. John Pearson and Armando Rosales both mentioned that they will be attending this event.

Laura Jackson mentioned the Conservation in Practice magazine is a one year subscription is available for the board and preserve managers.

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

July 12<sup>th</sup> AM – Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sioux City

July 12<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM – State Preserve Managers Ecological Management Seminar

July 13<sup>th</sup> 9 AM - 3 PM - Field Tour visits to Mount Talbot Preserve, Broken Kettle Grasslands and Five Ridge Prairie Preserve

### **ADJOURNMENT**



***Motion was made by Scott Moats to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Armando Rosales. Motion carried.***

With no further business to come before the State Preserves Advisory Board, Chairperson Laura Jackson adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM on April 6, 2007.

**A**

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